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SHOGUN WARRIORS
TM
SHOGUN AGAINST SHOGUN!

From an ancient sanctuary hidden in the mountains of Japan come Raydeen, Combatra and Danguard Ace— giant robots operated by three courageous humans, Richard Carson, Genji Odashu, and Ilongo Savage — ready to fight the forces of evil wherever they arise!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **SHOGUN WARRIORS™**

DOWNFALL!

IN THE WAKE OF COMBATRA'S ABRUPT DEPARTURE, RAYDEEN AND DANGARD ACE STAND ALONE TO FACE THE SEEMINGLY INVINCIBLE THREAT OF THE MECH-MONSTER...

THE THING'S TAKEN EVERY-THING WE'VE DISHED OUT-- WITHOUT EVEN BLINKING--
--AND NOW IT'S SPITTING OUR BEST SHOTS RIGHT BACK IN OUR FACES!

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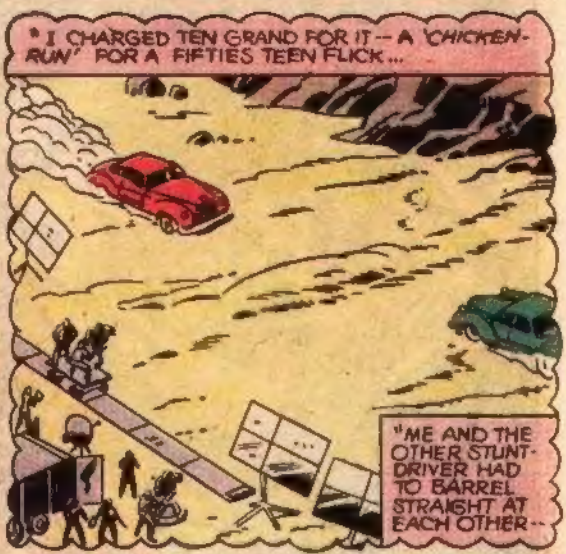
YOU SAID IT, CARSON -- ITS HIDE IS JUST TOO TOUGH -- LIKE AN ARMOR-PLATED TANK! HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S A LIVING CREATURE...
PAK!

IF EVER WE NEEDED TO PULL SOMETHING OUT OF THE HAT, IT'S NOW.
GOT ANYTHING UP RAYDEEN'S SLEEVE, CARSON?

I JUST MIGHT, SAVAGE. IF THE MECH-MONSTER'S TOO TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE, WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY HIM FROM THE INSIDE.
AND WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
MAYBE NOTHING, AND MAYBE MY SLEEVE HOLDS A BETTER TRICK THAN RAYDEEN'S -- BASED ON A MOVIE STUNT I ONCE DID.


"I CHARGED TEN GRAND FOR IT -- A 'CHICKEN-RUN' FOR A FIFTIES TEEN FLICK...
"ME AND THE OTHER STUNT-DRIVER HAD TO BARREL STRAIGHT AT EACH OTHER--

"--AND BELIEVE ME, FACING A HEAD-ON COLLISION LIKE THAT, OUR NERVES HAD TO BE DEAD.
"BUT THE TIMING WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT...

"...BECAUSE IF I HADN'T HIT THE BUMP WITH PERFECT TIMING, I NEVER WOULD'VE CLEARED THE OTHER CAR-- AND INSTEAD OF A FILM-STUNT, THE CAMERA WOULD'VE HAD A NEWSREEL FOR THE SIX O'CLOCK REPORT."
I'M GONNA TRY THE SAME STUNT WITH THE MECH-MONSTER, BUT SINCE HE'S NOT ABOUT TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS A FELLOW STUNT-DRIVER--
--I'LL NEED YOU AND DANGARD ACE TO HELP, SAVAGE...
I'M KEEPING IT LOW SO THE "CHICKEN" WILL BE FORCED TO SWERVE UP-- AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, SAVAGE...
AS SOON AS HE TRIES TO CLEAR ME--
--USE DANGARD ACE'S CHEST-BEAMS TO BLAST HIM BACK DOWN AND KEEP HIM THERE...
FASHHT
THAT OUGHTTA FORCE A ROAR--
MRAWW
--AND OPEN A PERFECT ENTRANCE TO THE INSIDE!

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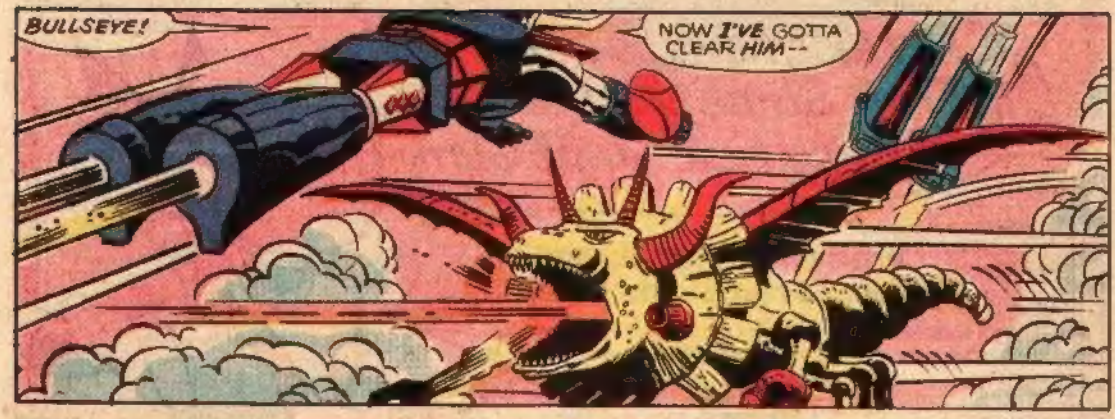
BULLSEYE!
NOW I'VE GOTTA CLEAR HIM--

"--BEFORE THE HEAD ON RAYDEEN'S ARROW--

"--DETONATES.
BHWOOM
"LIKE I SAID: IF HE'S TOO TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE..."

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO GENJI AND COMBATRA...

NO RESPONCE FROM GENJI, SAVAGE-- BUT RAYDEEN'S SENSORS HAVE A FIX ON COMBATRA'S ENERGY CELLS...

YOU THINK SHE'S IN TROUBLE, CARSON?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT WE'VE GOTTA FIND OUT...

...GOT TO HOME IN ON THE ENERGY SIGNAL --
--AND FIND HER.

THE SHOGUN WARRIORS STREAK TO THE COASTLINE...
THERE'S COMBATRA--STANDING IN THE WATER OFF THAT ISLAND! GENJI MUST BE OKAY... BUT WHY DOESN'T SHE ANSWER OUR CALLS?
DOOSH DOOSH DOOSH DOOSH
WHAT THE--?!
BOOM
LOOK OUT! COMBATRA'S ATTACKING US!!
EMPLOY DEFENSIVE MANEUVERS--BUT PULL YOUR PUNCHES--WE CAN'T RISK HURTING GENJI!
BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?! HAS SHE GONE CRAZY?
SHOGUN SANCTUARY...
OUR AGENTS POSE A GOOD--AND QUITE ALARMING--QUESTION. HAVE YOU FOUND AN ANSWER YET, CHARN?
NO, DOCTOR TAMBURA...
...GENJI WON'T RESPOND TO US EITHER.
THEN BREAK THE CIRCUITS, CHARN--CUT IN--OVERRIDE!

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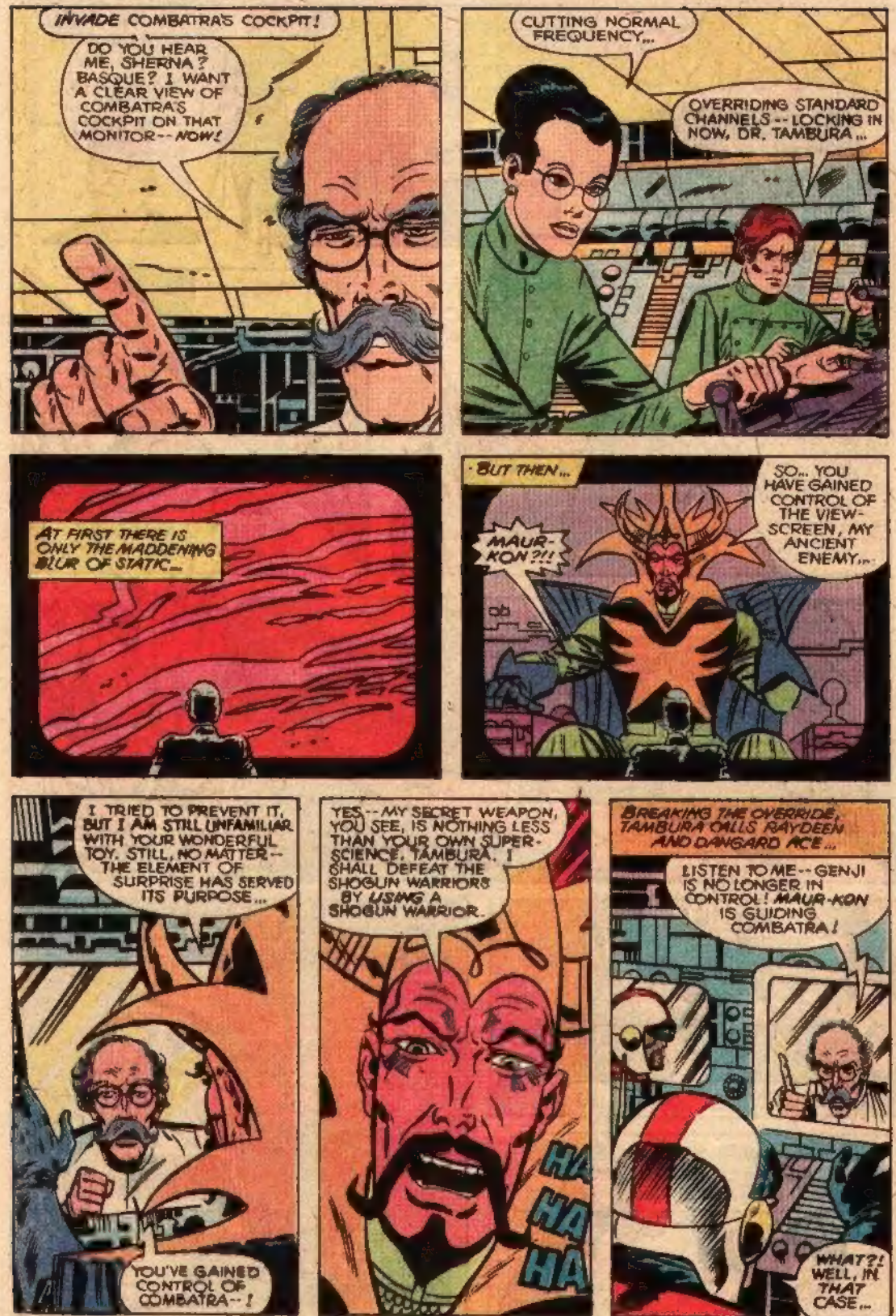
INVADE COMBATRA'S COCKPIT!
DO YOU HEAR ME, SHERNA? BASQUE? I WANT A CLEAR VIEW OF COMBATRA'S COCKPIT ON THAT MONITOR--NOW!
CUTTING NORMAL FREQUENCY...
OVERRIDING STANDARD CHANNELS--LOCKING IN NOW, DR. TAMBURA...
AT FIRST THERE IS ONLY THE MADDENING BLUR OF STATIC...
BUT THEN...
MAUR-KON?!!
SO... YOU HAVE GAINED CONTROL OF THE VIEW-SCREEN, MY ANCIENT ENEMY...
I TRIED TO PREVENT IT, BUT I AM STILL UNFAMILIAR WITH YOUR WONDERFUL TOY. STILL, NO MATTER--THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE...
YOU'VE GAINED CONTROL OF COMBATRA--!
YES--MY SECRET WEAPON, YOU SEE, IS NOTHING LESS THAN YOUR OWN SUPER-SCIENCE, TAMBURA. I SHALL DEFEAT THE SHOGUN WARRIORS BY USING A SHOGUN WARRIOR.
HA HA HA
BREAKING THE OVERRIDE, TAMBURA CALLS RAYDEEN AND DANGARD ACE...
LISTEN TO ME--GENJI IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL! MAUR-KON IS GUIDING COMBATRA!
WHAT?! WELL, IN THAT CASE...

...THERE'S NO NEED TO PULL OUR PUNCHES!
'CUSSION SHIELD CONVERTS TO BOOMERANG...
BUT IT SEEMS LORD MAUR-KON HAS BEEN PRACTICING AT LEAST SOME BASIC MOVES...
FLANG
...AND, PERHAPS, THEN SOME.
WE'RE STILL HOLDING BACK, SAVAGE -- IN SPITE OF OURSELVES!
EITHER THAT, CARSON, OR COMBATRA IS SIMPLY THE BEST OF THE THREE SHOGUN WARRIORS.
SPOK
BOOM
EITHER WAY, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
TELL ME ABOUT IT -- I CAN'T KEEP MY MIND ON THE FIGHT. I JUST KEEP WONDERING ONE THING...
IF MAUR-KON IS INSIDE COMBATRA -- THEN WHERE'S GENJI?!

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DEEP UNDER THE VOLCANIC ISLAND, IN THE VERY HEART OF MAUR-KON'S HAUNT OF EVIL...
DON'T SEE WHY THEY NEED US TO GUARD HER.
SHE'S IN THE CELL AND CAN'T POSSIBLY GET--
BZZAP
BZZAP
LT. MAGAR EMERGES FROM THE SHADOW OF A STALAGMITE...
HAH! MAUR-KON'S DRONES ARE CHILD'S PLAY.
NOW TO FREE THE FEMALE AGENT...
... AND USE HER VERY LIFE-FORCE TO PROVE THE SUPERIORITY OF SORCERY OVER SCIENCE...
...TO PROVE MY SUPERIORITY OVER THE TRAITOR MAUR-KON!
OUTSIDE, THE BATTLE BETWEEN SHOGUNS CONTINUES TO RAGE...
IT'S NOT GONNA WORK THIS WAY, SAVAGE! COMBATRA MAY BE STIFF AND AWKWARD--
--BUT HE'S UNPREDICTABLE AND DEADLY!

I CAN ONLY AGREE, CARSON. MAUR-KON MAY NOT BE GOOD--
-- BUT HE'S GOT GUTS.

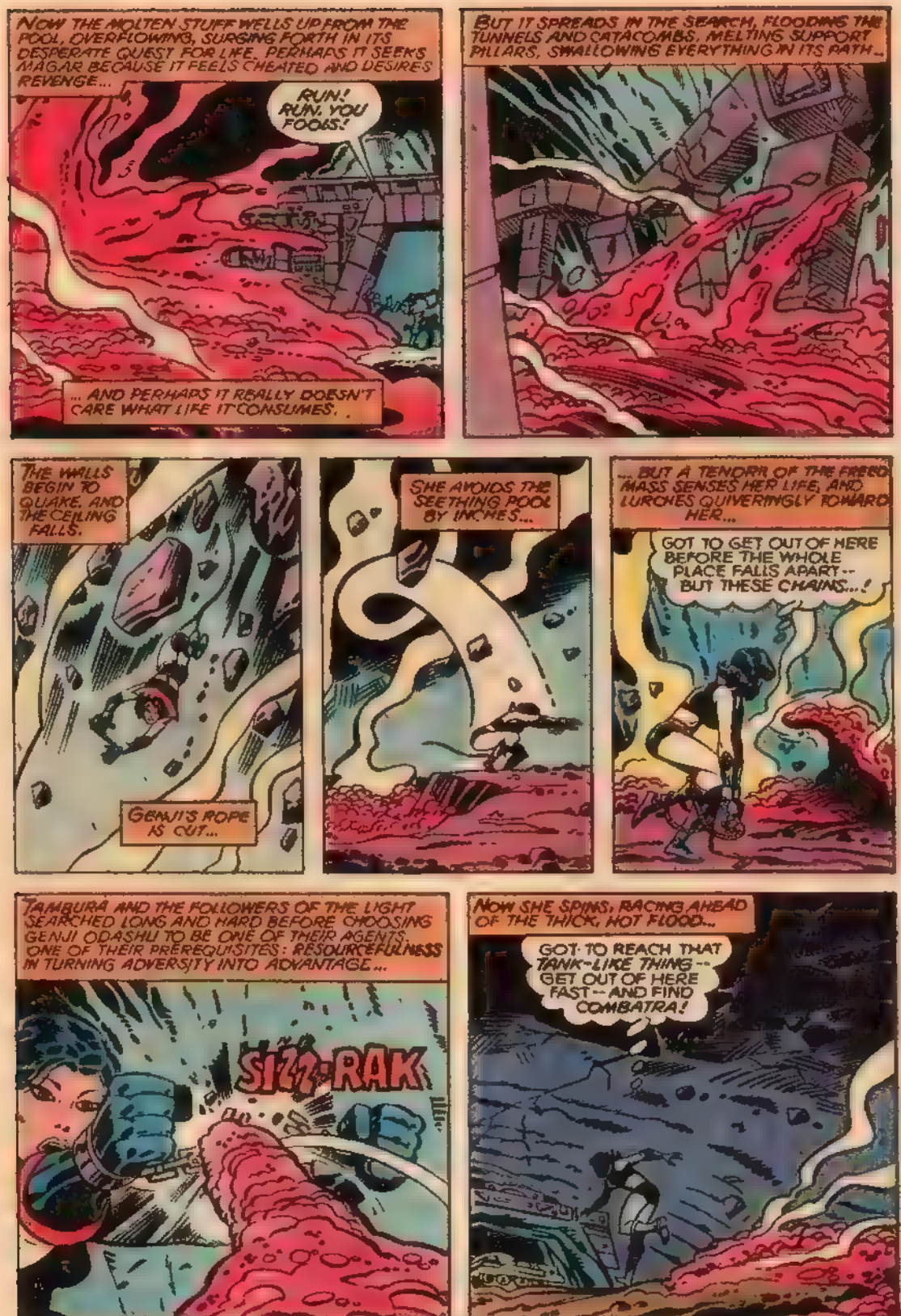
GUTS, SAVAGE -- AND NOTHING TO LOSE! BUT EVEN IF WE WIN--
BLANG
-- WE LOSE ONE-THIRD OF OUR TRIUMVERATE!

AND, IN THE HAUNT OF EVIL'S POOL OF DARK LIFE SECTOR... GENJI ODASHU REMAINS UNCONSCIOUS.
NOW, WHILE THE TRAITOR MAUR-KON REMAINS OUTSIDE--
--OCCUPIED WITH THE FOUL DEVICES OF SCIENCE--

-- I, LIEUTENANT MAGAR, SHALL VINDICATE THE GLORY OF ANCIENT SORCERY...

-- USING THIS FEMALE AS THE FOUNDATION -- HER LIFE-FORCE AS THE VERY CORE -- FOR A NEW CREATION...
...A NEW SERVANT OF EVIL!

MAGAR PERFORMS THE ARCANE RITES OF ETERNITY.. AND THE POOL OF DARK LIFE BEGINS TO HISS, AND BUBBLE ..
OMINOUSLY, AN AMORPHOUS MASS OF MAGMA BEGINS TO RISE FROM THE MOLTEN SURFACE...'
... HIGHER, EVER HIGHER...
... A GRUESOME PILLAR SEEKING LIFE.
RISE... RISE... RISE! REACH UP FOR THE FEMALE, AND ENFOLD HER IN YOUR MASS, FOR SHE SHALL BE YOUR LIFE!
HER FLESH SHALL SERVE AS YOUR HEART, GRANTING YOU EXISTENCE, SHAPE, FORM! TAKE HER -- NOW!
THEN, JUST AS THE MASS IS ABOUT TO ENGULF HER -
--GENJI AWAKENS.
NO! GOT TO MOVE!
INSTINCTIVELY, SHE LURCHES [illegible] A PENDULUM MARKING ALTERNATE MOMENTS OF LIFE AND DEATH.
IT IS AT A MOMENT OF LIFE THAT THE SORCEROUS MAGMA MAKES ITS FINAL MOVE...
IT MISSES HER, AND ITS SHADOW FINDS MAGAR.
NO!


NOW THE MOLTEN STUFF WELLS UP FROM THE POOL, OVERFLOWING, SURGING FORTH IN ITS DESPERATE QUEST FOR LIFE. PERHAPS IT SEEKS MAGAR BECAUSE IT FEELS CHEATED AND DESIRES REVENGE...
RUN! RUN, YOU FOOLS!
... AND PERHAPS IT REALLY DOESN'T CARE WHAT LIFE IT CONSUMES...
BUT IT SPREADS IN THE SEARCH, FLOODING THE TUNNELS AND CATACOMBS, MELTING SUPPORT PILLARS, SWALLOWING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH...
THE WALLS BEGIN TO QUAKE, AND THE CEILING FALLS.
GENJI'S ROPE IS CUT...
SHE AVOIDS THE SEETHING POOL BY INCHES...
... BUT A TENDRIL OF THE FREED MASS SENSES HER LIFE, AND LURCHES QUIVERINGLY TOWARD HER...
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE WHOLE PLACE FALLS APART -- BUT THESE CHAINS...!
TAMBURA AND THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT SEARCHED LONG AND HARD BEFORE CHOOSING GENJI ODASHU TO BE ONE OF THEIR AGENTS. ONE OF THEIR PREREQUISITES: RESOURCEFULNESS IN TURNING ADVERSITY INTO ADVANTAGE...
SIZZ-RAK
NOW SHE SPINS, RACING AHEAD OF THE THICK, HOT FLOOD...
GOT TO REACH THAT TANK-LIKE THING -- GET OUT OF HERE FAST -- AND FIND COMBATRA!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SPEAKING OF WHOM...
CAN'T HELP IT, CARSON--EVEN IF ITS NOT GENGI, IT'S STILL COMBATRA!
WAM
CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO REALLY BLAST FULL--
WAIT A MINUTE, SAVAGE! LOOK!
THE ISLAND-- THE WHOLE THING IS STARTING TO SHAKE AND RUMBLE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE?
INSIDE COMBATRA, LORD MAUR KON IS ENJOYING HIMSELF IMMENSELY...
HAH! THE FOOLS! THEY'RE AFRAID TO UNLEASH THEIR FULL FORCE ON ME--AND THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN HOPE TO--
WAIT -- THE ISLAND! MY HAUNT OF EVIL! IT'S CRUMBLING--COLLAPSING! BUT WHAT IS HAPPENING TO IT--?! WHAT'S CAUSING THIS UPHEAVAL?!
ONE OF MY WAR-MACHINES--! IF THIS IS LT MAGAR'S DOING, AND HE IS NOW SEEKING TO ESCAPE HIS OWN FOLLY...!

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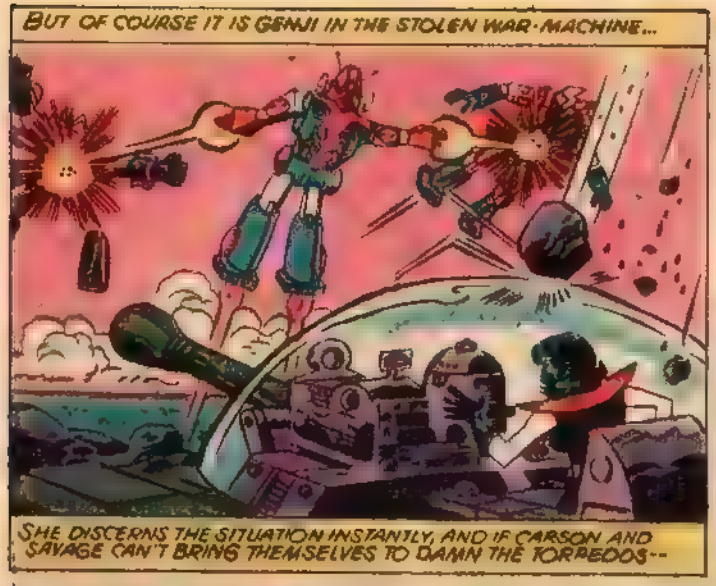
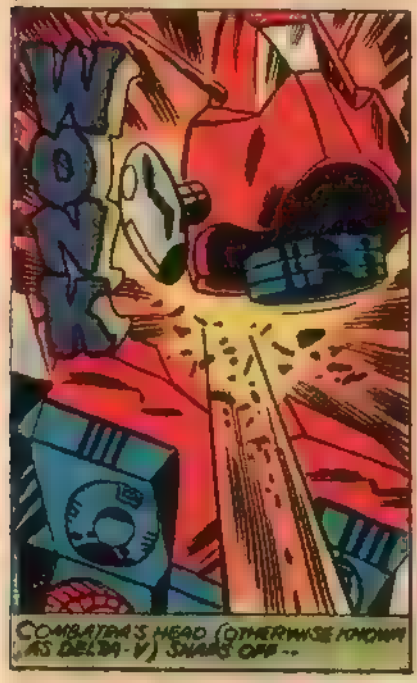
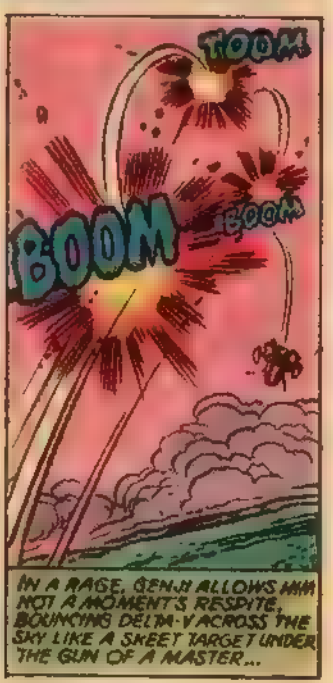
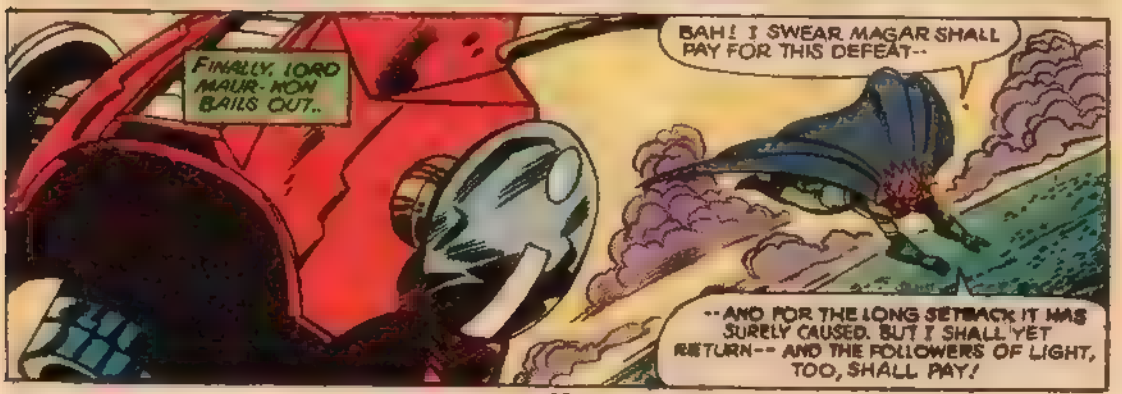

BUT OF COURSE IT IS GENJI IN THE STOLEN WAR-MACHINE...
SHE DISCERNS THE SITUATION INSTANTLY, AND IF CARSON AND SAVAGE CAN'T BRING THEMSELVES TO DAMN THE TORPEDOS--

BOOM
-- THEN SHE SURE AS BLAZES CAN!
HOW DARE THEY USE COMBATRA FOR EVIL!


WONK
COMBATRA'S HEAD (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS DELTA-V) SNAPS OFF--

--AND LORD MAUR-KON GOES FLYING
ATTACKED FROM BEHIND!


TOOM
BOOM
BOOM
IN A RAGE, GENJI ALLOWS HIM NOT A MOMENT'S RESPITE, BOUNCING DELTA-V ACROSS THE SKY LIKE A SKEET TARGET UNDER THE GUN OF A MASTER...


FINALLY, LORD MAUR-KON BAILS OUT..
BAH! I SWEAR MAGAR SHALL PAY FOR THIS DEFEAT--
--AND FOR THE LONG SETBACK IT HAS SURELY CAUSED. BUT I SHALL YET RETURN-- AND THE FOLLOWERS OF LIGHT, TOO, SHALL PAY!

AT FIRST, RAYDEEN AND DANGARD ACE PURSUE MAUR-KON, BUT THEN...
CARSON! THE ISLAND'S BREAKING UP INTO AN AVALANCHE --
"-- AND THAT WAS GENJI INSIDE THE TANK-THING!
"COME ON -- FORGET MAUR-KON! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER!!"
I'M RIGHT HERE, SAVAGE! I'LL PUNCH OUT THE FALLING BOULDERS--
-- WHILE YOU GET GENJI!
ROKT
THERE SHE IS...
ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT HER, CARSON! NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

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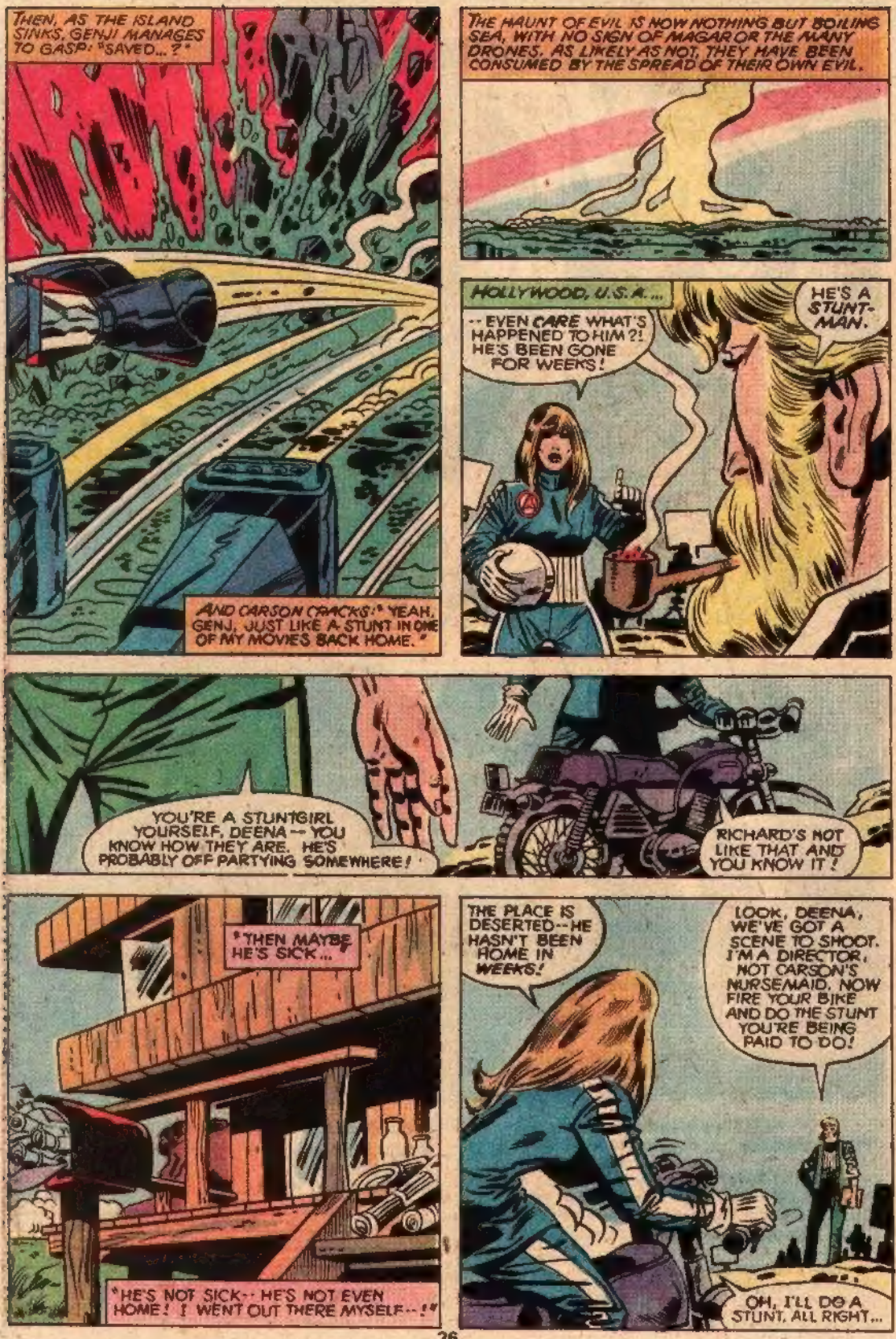
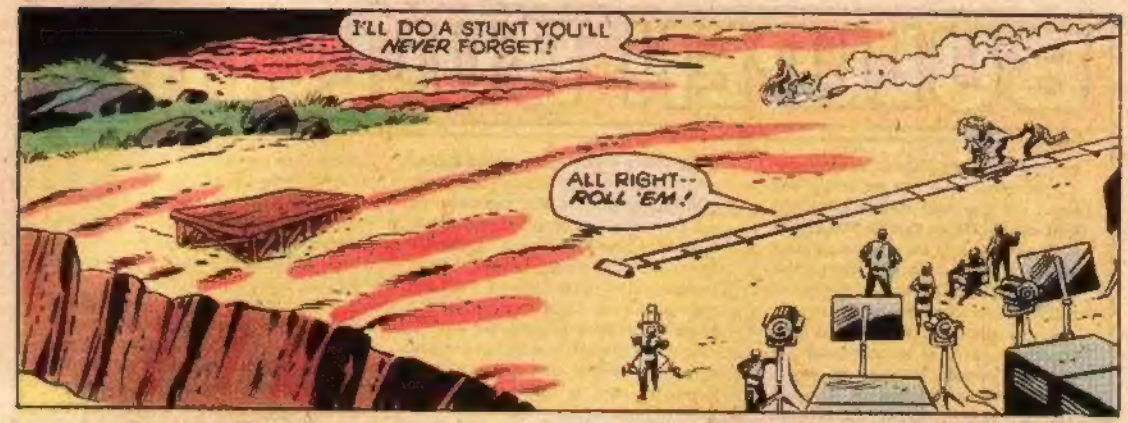
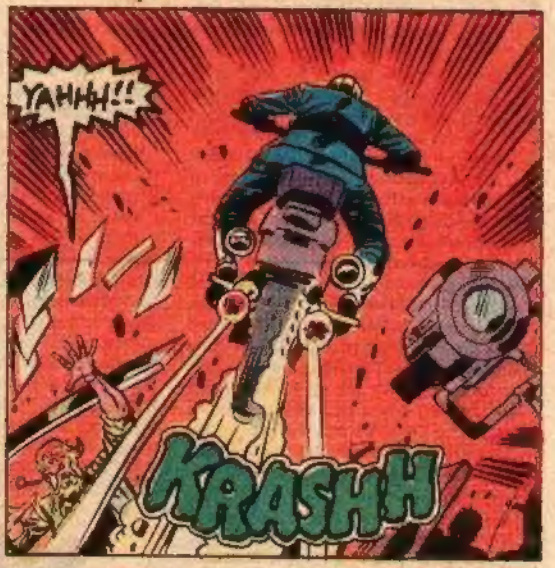

THEN, AS THE ISLAND SINKS, GENJI MANAGES TO GASP: "SAVED...?"
AND CARSON CRACKS: "YEAH, GENJI, JUST LIKE A STUNT IN ONE OF MY MOVIES BACK HOME."
THE HAUNT OF EVIL IS NOW NOTHING BUT BOILING SEA, WITH NO SIGN OF MAGAR OR THE MANY DRONES. AS LIKELY AS NOT, THEY HAVE BEEN CONSUMED BY THE SPREAD OF THEIR OWN EVIL.
HOLLYWOOD, U.S.A....
-- EVEN CARE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?! HE'S BEEN GONE FOR WEEKS!
HE'S A STUNT-MAN.
YOU'RE A STUNTGIRL YOURSELF, DEENA -- YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE. HE'S PROBABLY OFF PARTYING SOMEWHERE!
RICHARD'S NOT LIKE THAT AND YOU KNOW IT!
"THEN MAYBE HE'S SICK...
"HE'S NOT SICK-- HE'S NOT EVEN HOME! I WENT OUT THERE MYSELF--!"
THE PLACE IS DESERTED--HE HASN'T BEEN HOME IN WEEKS!
LOOK, DEENA, WE'VE GOT A SCENE TO SHOOT. I'M A DIRECTOR, NOT CARSON'S NURSEMAID. NOW FIRE YOUR BIKE AND DO THE STUNT YOU'RE BEING PAID TO DO!
OH, I'LL DO A STUNT, ALL RIGHT...



WAIT A MINUTE -- WHAT'S SHE DOING?! SHE'S SWERVING AWAY FROM THE RAMP -- COMING AT US! THIS ISN'T THE STUNT SHE'S SUPPOSED TO DO -- NOT THIS WAY! STOP HER BEFORE SHE --



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AS IF ON CUE...
LOOK! HERE IT COMES!
MAUR-KON MUST HAVE REGAINED CONTROL OF THE DELTA-V--!
YEAH, AND HE'S COMIN' BACK FOR MORE ACTION! HURRY-- INTO THE ROBOTS BEFORE HE HOOKS UP WITH THE REST OF COMBATRA!
BUT THEN, FROM THE DELTA-V'S LOUDSPEAKER...
DON'T WORRY, AGENTS-- IT'S JUST ME.
DR. TAMBURA?!
YES. I THOUGHT I'D CONGRATULATE YOU PERSONALLY.
BUT THE DELTA-V-- COMBATRA'S HEAD. HOW DID YOU--?
OH, DIDN'T I MENTION? THERE IS ONE DUPLICATE FOR EVERY COMPONENT OF EACH WARRIOR-- BUT ONLY ONE, SO DON'T GO AROUND CASUALLY DESTROYING YOURSELVES.
THEN YOU'RE NOT ANGRY THAT I--
NO. TRUE, IT'S A SHAME MAUR-KON ESCAPED, BUT THIS IS VERY CLOSE TO A TOTAL TRIUMPH. YOUR TRAINING WAS COMPLETED YESTERDAY, AND YOUR MISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED TODAY.
YOU MEAN--?
YES, YOU MAY GO HOME.

NEXT ISSUE: THE CONQUERING HEROES RETURN TO THE RELATIVE TRANQUILITY OF HOME AND NORMAL LIFE... BUT THE RESPITE ENDS QUICKLY FOR CARSON AND RAYDEEN WHEN THEY MEET--

THE MANY HEADS OF CERBERUS!